



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

#### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release NOVEMBER 18, 1959

#### INTERIOR ALLOTS FISH AND GAME FUNDS TO STATES

Federal Aid funds totaling \$20,612,778, which includes the last of the five Pittman-Robertson "backlog" allotments of \$2,693,494 each, have been apportioned to the States for their fish and game restoration programs for the year ending June 30, 1960, Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton announced today.

Fish restoration funds for fiscal year 1960 amount to \$5,300,000; game restoration, \$15,312,778.

These funds are derived from Federal excise taxes collected from the manufacturers--an 11 percent tax on sporting guns and ammunition for the restoration of game (Pittman-Robertson Act, approved September 2, 1937) and a 10 percent tax on fishing rods, reels, creels and artificial lures, baits and flies (Dingell-Johnson Act, approved August 9, 1950). Both taxes apply on the manufacturer's price.

Secretary Seaton, acting under the Department Solicitor's interpretation of the Pittman-Robertson Act's provisions prescribing the methods for apportioning Federal funds for wildlife restoration, temporarily withheld \$523,221.99 of the apportionment to six States pending receipt of acceptable certification as to the number of paid hunting license holders.

The States, and amounts involved, include Colorado, \$61,970.59; Michigan, \$223,239.05; Minnesota, \$93,687.13; Montana, \$1,558.29; Wisconsin, \$116,962.27, and Missouri, \$25,804.66.

Adoption by several States of licensing structures requiring separate licenses for various species of game created a controversy among State conservation commissions as to whether a hunter holding two or more separate licenses should be counted as a single license holder, or as a separate license holder for each license issued to him. The Department received several requests for a formal Solicitor's opinion.

At its annual meeting in Philadelphia, in September 1958, the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners adopted a resolution requesting the Solicitor to withhold a decision until the Association's legal committee could present its views. This was done and a formal opinion was requested, on November 20, 1958, at a meeting with the Department Solicitor, George W. Abbott, and representatives of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Solicitor's opinion, dated June 4, 1959, held that the phrase "number of paid hunting license holders," as used in the apportionment formula, referred to individuals to whom the State has issued one or more licenses, and not to the number of licenses sold in the State during a given fiscal year.

The apportionment announced today is the first to be made since issuance of the interpretive opinion.

At the 1959 meeting of the International Association, at Clearwater, Florida, in September, the Association adopted a resolution endorsing the Department's solicitation of the apportionment formula.

The program is administered by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Fish and Wildlife Service.

Funds are apportioned in accordance with a formula prescribed by Federal law based upon the area of each State and the number of license holders in the State during the base fiscal year. In the distribution of wildlife restoration funds, one-half of the funds available for distribution are divided among the States according to the ratio which the area of each State bears to the total area of all the States and one-half in the ratio which the number of paid hunting license holders in each State bears to the total number of paid hunting license holders in all States during the prescribed period.

Funds in aid of fish restoration are apportioned similarly with 40 percent of the available funds divided on the basis of area and 60 percent on the basis of sport fishing license holders. The maximum apportionment to any State for either program is limited by law to five percent of the total, while the minimum apportionment for game restoration is one-half percent and for fish restoration one percent.

One of the results of statehood for Alaska is to make available to her for the first time the maximum amounts of both game restoration and fish restoration money. Texas shared the top spot in game restoration funds. Each State has an apportionment of \$790,000.00, which is \$30,000.00 below the maximums of last year. Texas, California, and Minnesota joined Alaska in getting the maximum for restoration of fish, each State having an apportionment of \$263,500.00. The 1959 maximum for fish restoration was \$216,000.00. Previously, Alaska had been receiving a statutory \$90,000.00 for game programs and \$75,000.00 for fish work.

The minimum amount for game restoration for fiscal 1960 is \$79,000.00, received by New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii and Vermont. (Although Hawaii only recently became a State, it has been receiving funds on the regular State formula because of congressional action July 2, 1956.) In 1959, the minimum was \$82,000.00. For fish restoration the minimum for 1960 is \$52,700.00, compared with \$46,000.00 in 1959. States receiving the minimum for fish restoration are Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Vermont, West Virginia, Hawaii, Maine and North Dakota.

Guam, which became eligible for Federal Aid in 1958, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands each receive \$12,000.00 a year for game restoration programs and \$10,000.00 each for fish restoration.

Federal Aid money is matched by State money on the basis of \$3.00 Federal Aid to \$1.00 State funds, although in actual practice the States carry out all projects with their own funds, and are reimbursed for up to 75 percent of project costs.

To obtain the benefits of the Federal grants, the States submit project proposals to the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. When Federal Aid projects are approved by the Bureau, the State fish and game departments proceed to carry out the plans, spending their own funds. The States then submit reimbursement claims for 75 percent of the costs of the project, either periodically or at the completion of the work. All equipment, lands, and structures become the property of the States. All project workers are hired by the States and are State employees.

Apportionments to the 50 States for fiscal year 1960 for both fish and wildlife projects are attached.

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APPORTIONMENT FOR FEDERAL AID IN FISH AND WILDLIFE RESTORATION  
FISCAL YEAR 1960

	<u>FISH</u>	<u>WILDLIFE</u>
Alabama	\$100,569.39	\$278,169.87
Alaska	263,500.00	790,000.00
Arizona	94,220.77	334,814.01
Arkansas	95,962.61	244,807.77
California	263,500.00	715,651.11
*Colorado	117,618.54	351,939.01
Connecticut	52,700.00	79,000.00
Delaware	52,700.00	79,000.00
Florida	106,843.39	222,612.58
Georgia	100,499.30	256,548.51
Hawaii	52,700.00	79,000.00
Idaho	83,269.54	296,603.43
Illinois	154,089.16	394,056.93
Indiana	139,962.69	417,762.83
Iowa	89,789.30	310,712.66
Kansas	83,751.76	300,296.72
Kentucky	82,924.33	249,518.82
Louisiana	57,324.44	261,916.05
Maine	52,700.00	170,568.56
Maryland	52,700.00	105,732.40
Massachusetts	52,700.00	82,929.89
*Michigan	214,605.89	487,518.57
*Minnesota	263,500.00	368,367.80
Mississippi	58,432.52	221,896.64
*Missouri	136,064.65	347,067.67
*Montana	123,173.59	473,192.84
Nebraska	74,045.23	274,876.58
Nevada	72,928.50	296,096.40
New Hampshire	52,700.00	79,000.00
New Jersey	52,700.00	99,289.38
New Mexico	88,700.54	350,799.04
New York	148,425.26	608,667.74
North Carolina	87,252.12	312,438.10
North Dakota	52,700.00	231,876.75
Ohio	154,402.37	444,084.00
Oklahoma	110,363.30	266,308.45
Oregon	111,651.99	380,558.49
Pennsylvania	119,178.89	590,597.68
Rhode Island	52,700.00	79,000.00
South Carolina	54,638.58	159,295.84
South Dakota	63,679.06	270,605.28
Tennessee	127,556.15	308,364.23
Texas	263,500.00	790,000.00
Utah	70,748.64	288,185.17
Vermont	52,700.00	79,000.00
Virginia	81,724.27	300,999.00
Washington	98,507.82	308,869.39
West Virginia	52,700.00	194,397.31
*Wisconsin	197,180.32	331,460.62
Wyoming	83,515.09	312,323.89

\*Portion of funds in the aggregate sum of \$523,221.99 temporarily withheld pending receipt of acceptable certification of paid hunting license holders.